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GreenTech LIU: A Roadmap for a Collaborative, SDG Campus

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GreenTech LIU: A Roadmap for a Collaborative, SDG Campus

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INTRODUCTION

For universities, sustainability is an essential literacy for the 21st century. LIU Post's Center for Sustainability wants faculty and students to have powerful and effective digital tools for bringing sustainability frameworks into classrooms, campus research, and learning experiences. GreenTech LIU (GTLIU) will provide an integrated digital platform for faculty and students to collaborate on global citizenship research and education projects. We believe that global citizenship education (GCE) serves as a center axis that can help to integrate sustainability activities across the LIU Post campus. Sustainability and global citizenship are essential skills for 21st century students, regardless of students' academic majors.

GTLIU's unique digital platform will begin with 14 sets of variables to help students and faculty place our campus practices into a larger global context.

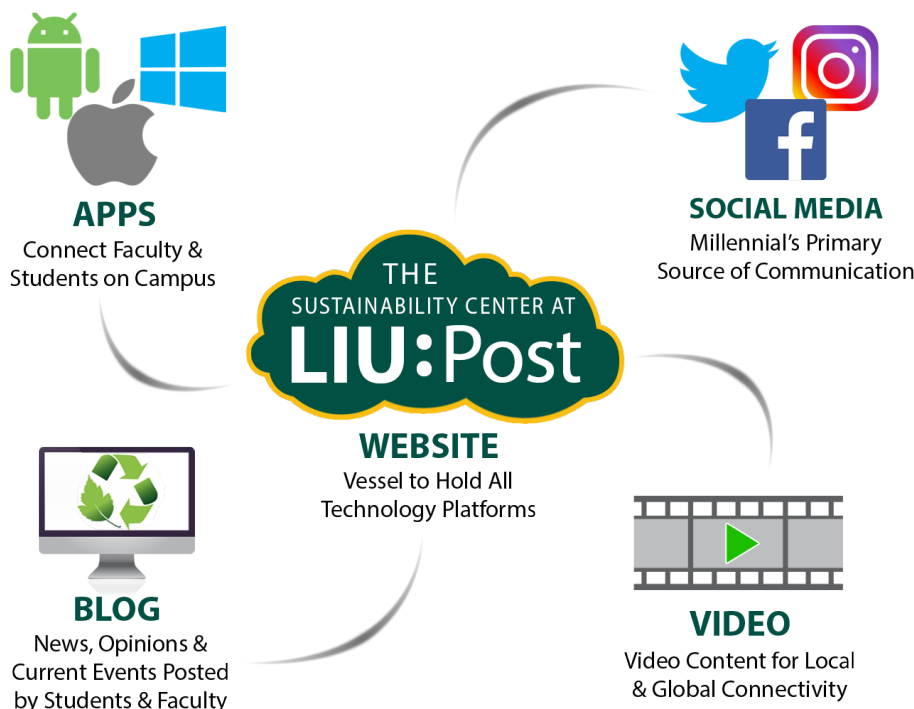
- What is the carbon footprint of our students? What alternatives can reduce these footprints?
- Which faculty members and students work on issues related to poverty, health, gender, economic inequality, infrastructure, the oceans, and other topics relevant to global sustainability goals?
- Which local restaurants emphasize sustainability practices?
- What happens to plastic bottles sold on campus? Are they recycled and where? Can we track their movement around the planet?

GTLIU will offer a variety of tools to help students to communicate what they are learning and to integrate their messages in social media platforms that users can track and analyze.

GTLIU is designed as a tool for everyone. A key component of this platform is to benchmark its adoption across the campus by faculty and students. Faculty engagement with (and adoption of) GTLIU is essential for its success. Therefore, GTLIU will explore a variety of modalities in 2018 - 2020 to accelerate its adoption across the campus. In Fall 2018, the Center for Sustainability will complete its Accelerator 1.0 White Paper. It will define and track a dozen or more campus leaders who are tasked with advancing the adoption of GTLIU on the Post campus. The White Paper will explain how GTLIU aligns with existing institutional goals and provide a campus roadmap through 2020.

GTLIU is a collaborative platform that is local and global; it mirrors our own LIU community. The platform is technical and pedagogic; it strengthens a variety of analytical, creative and communication skills using online learning modalities and it pushes students toward experiential, service and action-oriented learning.

An essential part of our identity as global citizens is our desire to understand and assist one another. GTLIU aims to align campus pedagogies with the realities of global interdependence. Our LIU networks span the planet's complex cultural and natural geographies, yet there are very limited opportunities to tap into this wealth of collective knowledge and experiences, until now. GTLIU platforms encourage its participants to



emphasize a human rights based model toward learning and to explore and develop new learning competencies to ensure that all members of the LIU community are treated with dignity and respect. GTLIU will help all students to communicate complex world issues in a way that touches on our shared humanity and willingness to not only survive but thrive.

As shown on page 3, GTLIU will draw upon a variety of tools. These include social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), video and photo content, weekly blogs that emphasize campus research and learning activities, and a variety of apps that increase campus connectivity, creativity, and engagement in the citizenship and sustainability practices.

GCE | SDGs| GTLIU

Global Citizenship Education (GCE), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Green Tech LIU (GTLIU) are three complementary perspectives supported by the LIU Post Center for Sustainability.

- ✓ GCE is a form of education that gives learners a sense of belonging to a community that surpasses the local boundaries and builds on the political, economic, social and cultural interdependence and interconnectedness between the local, national and international level (UNESCO)
- ✓ GCE instills the knowledge, skills, behaviors and attitudes needed to engage in individual and collective action at the local and regional levels which will aid in the switch towards a long-term future at the global level (Haigh 2014).
- ✓ The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) consist of 17 goals and 168 targets developed by the United Nations in 2015 to advance people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership. Universities are widely adopting the SDGs and international conferences now showcase these practices.
- ✓ The 17 Global Goals include a commitment to a quality education for all students; SDG 4 (shown on page 4) includes a commitment to global citizenship education. We see GCE as a basic building block for achieving all 17 goals.

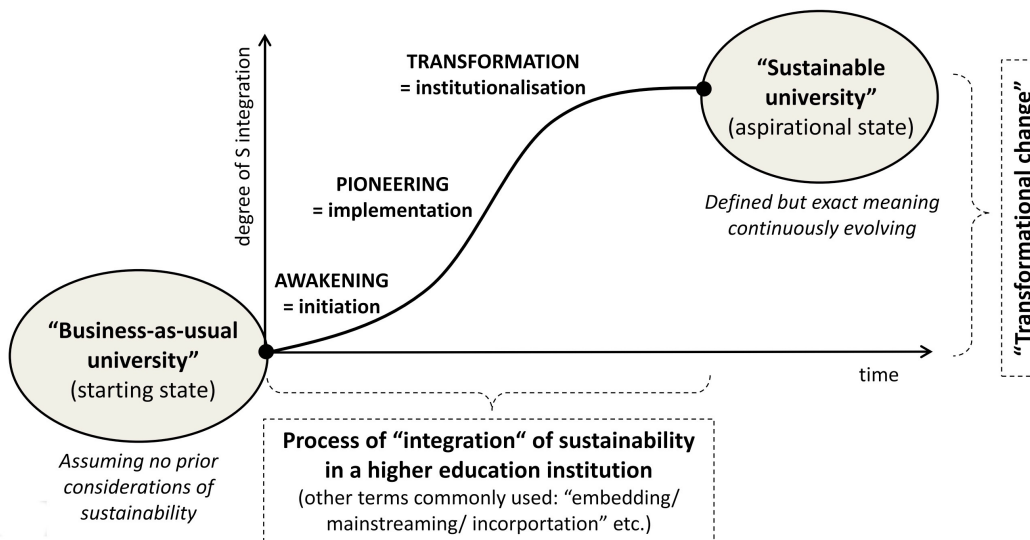
- ✓ In 2018, the Center for Sustainability will begin to encourage faculty at LIU to integrate appropriate SDGs into their curriculum and participate in interdisciplinary educational workshops with the Center for Sustainability. The Center will monitor campus SDG practices and summarize its findings annually.



- ✓ GTLIU will allow the Center for Sustainability to develop, implement and sustain an online database of university sustainability initiatives at LIU Post, including the university's engagement with the wider world. Full development of GTLIU is dependent upon external funding. The Center needs technology and production teams to create content and develop the GTLIU technology platform over the next several years.

THE ACCELERATOR MODEL

- ✓ The accelerator model (Kapitulcinova, et. al, 2017) functions as a three-year strategic plan to organize our objectives and goals to enhance GTLIU's successful implementation. Through faculty and staff surveys we can map faculty teaching and research interests in the context of the 17 SDGs (and their 168 targets). Faculty working on poverty would form an SDG 1 teaching cluster. (See the SDG graphic on page 3.) Faculty can belong to multiple clusters. This mapping will reveal new and currently hidden patterns in faculty alignment that cut across traditional disciplinary lines. The current goal is to create a community of at least 75 faculty by 2020 who are actively working together through GTLIU, as shown in the graph below.



As illustrated in the accelerator graphic above, LIU Post’s success in advancing a culture of sustainability requires shifting campus practices from a condition of general awareness (“awakening”) to one of transformation. The critical work over the next five years is to cultivate a community of faculty and student “pioneers” who are willing to work with the Center for Sustainability to advance the goals outlined in this report.

CONCLUSION

We need your help and participation to make this vision happen!

- ★ We have a shared vision of creating relationships within and between departments that support GCE and the SDGs.
- ★ We believe every student graduating from LIU Post should have competencies in global citizenship and sustainability, structured around their chosen discipline.
- ★ We wish to stay competitive with local and global universities by improving student performance, participation, and leadership through engagement with global citizenship education and the GTECH platform.

14 Sets of Variables GTLIU

1. GTLIU Faculty Community

- Which professors are teaching the SDGs in their classes?
- How are faculty working collaboratively with the Center?
- Identify and support LIU faculty with specific SDG/GTLIU expertise.

2. GTLIU Student Community

- Which students are actively supporting the SDGs through their campus and classroom practices?
- Track students' strengths by SDGs.
- Track students' SDG related social media activities.
- Student participation in GTLIU is voluntary, and students can control privacy settings.

3. Sustainability Literacy at LIU

- Develop protocols to assess and track student sustainability literacy using nationally recognized assessment tools.

4. Student Leadership Development

- Strengthen student communication, project management, teamwork, creativity, and analytical skills with a focus on the UN SDGs and global citizenship practices.
- Encourage students to complete the Center's 100 hour training program (beginning in 2020).

5. UN Sustainable Development Goals

- The Center will monitor campus engagement in the UN SDGs in and out of class.
- The Center will develop a set of annual awards to recognize campus leaders.

6. Global Connectivity and Citizenship

- GTLIU can monitor and assess faculty and student's regional and global networks using GIS and allied technologies.
- Develop and support regional and international university-based SDG networks.

7. Job Networks

- Provide a platform for alumni and students to communicate about sustainability related jobs.

8. Internship Networks

- Offer and track student resources for local internship related to sustainability and global citizenship.
- Internships include environmental conservation and field research, advocacy, education, lab research, etc.

9. University Infrastructure

- What resources exist within LIU to support sustainability? This include food sustainability, energy conservation, recycling, etc.
- Provide a campus map, by building, that highlights resources available across the campus.
- Map and monitor key systems such as energy consumption, food systems, and recycling.

10. Student Apps and Data

- Provide Apps for students to calculate their carbon footprint.
- Student and faculty blogs.
- Student and faculty videos.

11. Healthy, Sustainable Lifestyles

- Support practices that nurture healthy choices; offer a wide array of holistic options.
- Track and support regional restaurants with sustainability commitments.
- Encourage access to holistic regional health centers.
- Encourage daily low- (and no-) cost practices to encourage healthy living.

12. Sustainability Workshops

- Run workshops each semester to promote the Center and GTLIU practices.
- Archive workshops online.
- Promote regional and online workshops that support GTLIU practices.

13. Interactive and Innovative Classroom Pedagogies

- Promote campus adoption of innovative pedagogies.
- Host webinars; create interactive online classrooms.

14. Inclusivity

- Encourage modes of engagement that are inclusive and do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, etc.

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